

OF NOTE

Briefings

★ Financial goals

Achieving Your Financial Goals is offered **Nov. 17**, 1:30 p.m., in the Family Support Center. Register at 846-0741.

★ Student costs

Financing Your Student Education Seminar is **Nov. 19**, 1:30 p.m., in the Family Support Center. Register at 846-0741.

★ Federal jobs

Federal Jobs Application Preparation Workshop is **Nov. 19**, 5:30-8 p.m. in the Family Support Center. Register at 846-0741.

★ Business dress

Dress for Success Workshop is **Nov. 21**, in the Family Support Center. Men's apparel is discussed at 9 a.m. and women's apparel is discussed at 10:30 a.m. Register at 846-0741.

★ Small biz

Starting a Small Business Workshop is **Nov. 21**, 9-11:30 a.m., in the Family Support Center. Register at 846-0741.

★ Be a sponsor

Sponsor Training is **Nov. 25**, 10 a.m., in the Family Support Center. Register at 846-0741.

★ Interviewing

Interviewing Skills Workshop is **Nov. 26**, 5:30-8 p.m. in the Family Support Center. Register at 846-0741.

Closings

★ Holiday gate hours

On **Thanksgiving Day**, Gibson, Wyoming and Truman gates are open regular hours. All other gates closed. All gates resume regular hours **Nov. 28**.

Education

★ Spouse scholarship

The Air Force spouses scholarship program provides financial assistance to 30 spouses of Air Force active duty, Reserve or Guard.

Spouses worldwide pursuing associate, bachelor, graduate or post-graduate degree can apply for the \$1,000 scholarships by **Jan. 30**.

Learn details at www.aef.org/aid/spouse.asp.

★ College tests end

The Education Center will not offer the College Level Examination Program exams for natural science, college mathematics, English composition, principles of accounting, college level Spanish and History of the U.S. I and II after **Nov. 26**.

★ Virtual ed center

The Community College of the Air Force and the Air Force Virtual Education Center have teamed to help military members build on their education by using the Air Force Virtual Education Center.

The AFVEC is the Air Force's premier site for providing information about education benefits, including selected CCAF information.

Students may log on to AFVEC, <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>, from a .mil domain only, to create an account and to access their on-line CCAF academic records and customer service tools.

★ Scholarships

Nov. 4 kicked off the application period for the children of active duty, retired and Guard and Reserve members to apply for \$1,500 academic scholarships. The application window for the 2004 Scholarships for Military Children program is through **Feb. 18**.

Now in its fourth year, the program, operated by the Defense Commissary Agency has awarded nearly \$2.5 million in scholarships to some 1,500 children of U.S. service members and retirees. Funding comes from manufacturers and suppliers whose products are sold at military commissaries, Kennedy explained. In addition, the Fisher House Foundation is underwriting the program's administrative costs. The general public can also contribute to the program through the Fisher

House Foundation at www.fisherhouse.org or and through the Armed.

Last year, 550 scholarship recipients were selected from 6,500 applicants.

For more information about the scholarship program and application procedures, visit the program's Web site at www.militaryscholar.org/.

Events

★ Knowledge Bowl

The Knowledge Bowl Club, a team-based "Jeopardy" style compe-

tition, is **every Thursday**, 5:15 p.m., at the Steve Schiff Auditorium of Sandia National Laboratories.

Admission is free. For details contact gregory.brault@kirtland.af.mil or Jason at jvzuffr@sandia.gov.

★ Safety briefings

Officer Bill Cain of the National Crime Prevention Task Force returns to Kirtland AFB to present a holiday personal safety program. Cain presented personal safety information last summer.

The free program **today** is at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., in the theater. The briefing is mandatory for 377th Air Base Wing members and open to everyone else on base and their family members.

The presentation includes information about personal and workplace safety, traveling safety, road rage, car theft and carjackings, random acts of violence, identity theft, gang activity and holiday safety.

★ Women vets

The annual Women's Veterans Lunch is **today**, 11 a.m., in the Mountain View Club. Cost is \$17 a person; call Gloria Vinskey at 899-8525.

★ Hepatitis lectures

A public meeting for veterans, military members and their supporters features four speakers on the topic of Hepatitis C, **today**, 10 a.m.-noon and 2-4 p.m., at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park, 1100 Louisiana Boulevard Southeast. Call your confirmation to attend one of the sessions to Bill Remak at 1-707-364-1802.

Remak heads the California Hepatitis C task force and advisory committee on HCV to the California Association of Veterans Service Agencies. Marian Kerbleski is a supervisor of the San Francisco Veterans Association Hepatitis Resource Center and national trainer of VA nurses in the case management of Hepatitis C. Richard Darling is a California dentist and 2003 National Public Citizen of the Year who founded the FAIR Foundation, a national movement to reverse

inequities in research funding through the National Institutes of Health. James Hoyt is a researcher in Hepatitis C concerning stigma and lifelong economic impact, with perspectives on the individual, family, community and world.

★ Student fair

The Office of Personnel Management sponsors a student job fair at the University of New Mexico, **Nov. 20**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

★ Benefits fair

The Federal Employee Health Benefits open season is **today-Dec. 8** for enrollment, changes and cancellations and other services.

The benefits fair is **Nov. 17**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in the Consolidated Support Building 20245. Changes made during the fair are effective Jan. 11.

Representatives from health plans can answer questions about upcoming changes in benefits or premiums.

You will make your Open Season election or change by using the BEST web-based System at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm or the BEST automated phone system, 800-997-2378.

★ Trade fair

More than 50 vendors showcase their products and services at the Commander's Trade Fair for small, disadvantaged, high-tech contractors, **Nov. 18**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., in the Rio Grande Community Center.

This event introduces small, disadvantaged contractors to the technical and contracting customers on Kirtland AFB. All base employees are invited the fair with refreshments, door prizes and giveaway promotional items.

Call Joan Fulkerson, 846-8515 or 846-4919.

★ Retiree briefing

All retirees and their spouses or surviving spouses are invited to a briefing **Nov. 25**, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. in the Rio Grande Community Center, Building 20226.

The briefing includes a video on the federal long term care program, a brief overview of the Combat-Related Special Compensation, concurrent receipt proposed for Jan. 1, 2004, and an update on the SBP and DIC. A representative from the 377th Air Base Wing Safety Office also will speak.

OF NOTE

Meetings

★ AF sergeants

The Air Force Sergeants Association meets **Nov. 19**, 11:30 a.m., in Ground Zero of the Mountain View Club. Enlisted ranks are welcome.

Military working dogs Adis and Aron will be made honorary members during the meeting.

★ Speaking skills

Improve your public speaking skills by practicing at Toastmasters.

Four clubs meet on or near Kirtland AFB:

Duke City Club, **Thursdays**, 6:45 a.m., Distance Learning Center in the 377 ABW headquarters, Wyoming Boulevard at M Avenue; Kirtland MCs Club, **Thursdays**, 11:30 a.m., Coronado Club, just inside Wyoming Gate; Kirtland Toastmasters, **Fridays**, 7:30 a.m., Kirtland Federal Credit Union, Gibson and Louisiana boulevards; Kirtland New Horizons, **Fridays**, noon, Department of Energy Training Center in Maxwell Housing.

Contact Roy Crawford at 254-4337 or roycrawford@comcast.net.

★ Stress RX

Gary Schancer, exercise physiologist at the Health and Wellness Center, speaks about stress management at the Kirtland AFB chapter of American Society of Military Comp-trollers, Rio Grande Chapter.

The meeting is **Nov. 20**, 11 a.m., in the Coronado Club Zia Room.

Call Steve Romero at 846-6181.

★ Hearts Apart

Family arcade night for Hearts Apart families is **Nov. 21**, 5-8 p.m., in the Consolidated Support Building 20245 conference room. The evening includes video games, dinner and a children's movie.

Register at 846-0741.

★ Moms group

Mothers of Preschoolers group, called "MOPS," regular meeting is **Nov. 25**, 9-11:30 a.m., in the Rio Grande Community Center.

Miscellanea

★ Veteran health

The Veterans Affairs opened a new Web site that offers health information for veterans.

The site at www.myheath.va.gov offers one-stop shopping for information about VA benefits, special programs, health information and services, along with a commercial health education library with up-to-

date information about medications and conditions, health status measuring tools.

★ COLA increase

Military retired pay, federal retired pay, VA disability compensation, SBP survivor annuities and Social Security will include a 2.1 percent cost of living allowance starting **Dec. 1**. It will be reflected in checks issued **Jan. 2**.

★ Media lab work

The 377th Air Base Wing Multimedia Center Building 20140 is being recarpeted in early December. Here are areas that will be affected:

Main hallway, customer service and EIC, Dec. 1-2; PUBS, RIMS, FOIA and BVIM, Dec. 5; Graphics, Dec. 10; Public Address/Video Maintenance, Dec. 11-12; and Video, Dec. 15-16.

During carpet work, the photo lab, studio and alert services, video location shots and public address work operate as normal. In-house production will continue, but work flow may be affected in areas where work is scheduled.

★ Telephone change

The Air Force contact center at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph AFB, Texas, is changing its toll-free telephone number to 800-616-3775.

To provide better service, several contact centers are being tied to the new number. However, remaining the same are the commercial number at 210-565-5000 and the DSN 665-5000.

The contact center is available 24 hours every day.

Personnel

★ MPF hours

The Military Personnel Flight is open 8 a.m.-4 p.m. for appointments. Walk-in customers are welcome noon-2 p.m. in all sections other than Identification Cards, which is open to walk-in all operating hours.

Call 846-8979.

★ Suicide, violence briefs

The mandatory Suicide and Violence Prevention Training for Air Force members is conducted by the Life Skills Support Center.

Sessions are **Nov. 25** and **Dec. 9**, 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., in the 377th Air Base Wing Presentation Center in Building 20604. Sessions also are in the theater **Nov. 17**, **Dec. 2** and **17**, 7:30 and 9 a.m., noon and 1:30 and 3 p.m.

Call 846-3305.

Personnel

★ Dress, appearance

A Dress and Appearance Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil provides answers to your questions.

If your questions need research, e-mail to afpc.dress@randolph.af.mil.

Recruiting

★ Scouting

Boy Scout Troop 85 helps young men grow into productive citizens. To be part of this success story, contact Scoutmaster Gerald Axford at 271-0726 or visit a troop meeting **any Monday**, 7 p.m., at the Scout Hut at the northeast corner of Wyoming Boulevard and Pennsylvania Street.

★ Volunteers

Volunteer brown bag lunch and learn session is **Nov. 18**, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., in the Family Support Center. Register at 846-0741.

★ Exercise victims

A joint base and Veterans Affairs exercise needs about 100 military or civilian volunteers to play casualty victims in an exercise **Nov. 20**, 9:30 a.m.

To volunteer, call 256-2823, or send an e-mail to william.thompson@med.va.gov.

★ Blood drives

United Blood Services conducts blood drives at:

★ Sandia Labs **every Tuesday**, 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

★ Vacancies

The 302nd Airlift Wing Maintenance Group, Peterson AFB at Colorado Springs, Colo., seeks top quality, highly motivated traditional reserve technicians. Immediate openings are available in the following Air Force specialty codes: 2A5X1, 2A5X3, 2A6X1B, 2A6X2, 2A6X3, 2A6X4.

Full-time Air Reserve Technician positions are also available. Contact Master Sgt. Brendt Traicoff, 302 AW/RS, Brent.Traicoff@302.peterson.af.mil; DSN 834-8095; 1-800-446-9624 (*8 + Extension 8095).

Roadwork

★ F Avenue

Repaving on F Avenue east bound lanes between Wyoming and 12th Street is through most of November.

Use alternate routes when possible and avoid using the route for pedestrian or bicycle traffic.

'Click it or ticket seat belt checks start

The 377th Security Forces Squadron participates in the national "Click it or Ticket, Nov. 17-30, to promote seatbelt safety awareness.

More than 13,000 civilian and military law enforcement agencies nationwide will sharply increase and intensify enforcement of seat belt and child passenger safety laws during the enforcement blitz. The effort is a cooperative agreement in partnership with the Air Bag Seat Belt Safety Campaign and the National Highway Safety Administration to promote seat belt use.

Security forces and wing Safety personnel will conduct checkpoints, saturation patrols and random inspections at base entry points, in- and out-bound lanes and various intersections throughout the installation. Patrols will also conduct aggressive speeding enforcement and all drivers violating laws will be ticketed immediately.

Water lines flushed

Water lines in base housing areas where water demand is minimal for the remaining occupants must be flushed to provide fresh water.

At various times throughout this winter, utilities workers will flush the lines by opening fire hydrants and discharging water. Whenever possible, the discharged water will be used for irrigation, but some water will run into the street gutters.

As new housing and infrastructure are built and the homes are occupied, the flushing will not be needed because the water demand will cause the water to move more quickly in the lines, providing fresh water to residents.

Last year, residents had problems with discoloration in dishwashers and when washing clothing. The flushing this year is aimed at preventing that problem.

Paper LES going away

Hard copies of Leave and Earnings Statements won't be provided after **Jan. 1**, for military members.

To access accounts on-line, starting Jan. 1, military and civilians should visit the finance customer service counter to receive an immediate PIN or logon at <https://mypay.dfas.mil> to receive a PIN by mail.

To have a finance employee visit your organization with a laptop computer to provide PINs, call 2nd Lt. Michelle Paquet at 846-7258.

Services offered on myPay are: viewing and printing Leave and Earning Statements, state or federal tax withholdings, or travel vouchers; changing address; purchasing U.S. Savings Bonds; controlling or starting Thrift Savings Plan.